

Ensuring a fair and sustainable revenue base and savings

Significant initiatives

- **Extending the temporary off-the-plan stamp duty concessions**

A reduction in government revenue of \$3.6m in 2025-26 (\$61.2m/4 yrs) to extend the land transfer concessions for off-the-plan apartments, townhouses and units for an additional 12 months.

- **Whole of Government savings and efficiencies**

Savings of \$544.6m in 2025-26 (\$3.25b/4 yrs) achieved through re-sizing and restructuring the Victorian Public Service based on recommendations to be made in the Independent Review led by Helen Silver AO.

What's missing

- This Budget did not include any new revenue initiatives or significant changes to existing measures. In our pre-Budget submission, VCOSS highlighted opportunities for reform that would enable the state to make strong sustainable investment in critical services, while ensuring the costs are shared more equitably. A revenue base that is both fair and sustainable is key to supporting our communities, economy and service systems to be resilient in the face of uncertainty. VCOSS continues to call for:
 - Reform to property tax to create a fairer housing system (as outlined in *Housing*).
 - Reform to fees and fines so they are more equitable and effective.
 - Revenue measures targeted to commercial actors whose practices and products contribute to the state's disease burden and cause broader economic harms.
- VCOSS recognises that finding savings in leaner times is an important part of ensuring the long-term sustainability of government finances. However, we note that the savings expected to be realised through cuts to the public service off the back of the Silver Review are significant. While the details of this remain to be seen, VCOSS urges due consideration be given to the potential impacts of these cuts on the community – including the opportunity cost of reduced public service in terms of

capacity to co-design policies and programs with impacted communities, service users and the community sector, progress much-needed reform and deliver critical services.